



MINUTES OF THE LEE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

MAY 24, 2006

The Lee County Fire Advisory Board met for its fifth meeting on May 24, 2006, in the Small Conference Room at the Lee County Government Center.

The following members were present:

- Donald Andrews, Jr.
- Roger King
- Larry Kelly
- Royce Gaines
- Larry Oldham
- John Altenburger
- Bob Brown

The following members were absent:

- David Smitherman, Ex officio member

After being called to order by Chairman Andrews, the following business was transacted:

Chairman Donald Andrews asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to the minutes. John Altenburger moved to approve minutes as written; minutes were then approved unanimously.

Carolina Trace Fire Department President Jack Chute arrived at 5:15 p.m. The following questions and answers were retrieved from the interview:

1. How did you come up with the figure of \$11.00 per hour for salary?
 - a. It was going to be \$10.00 per hour until it was compared to other departments.
2. How has a paid position benefited the department?
 - a. Faster response time, data input, able to train others, keep up with paperwork.

3. If the full time position is not granted, what adjustments will have to be made?
 - a. They would have to cut back. The paid person gets the truck to the fire and the rest of the fire fighters come to the scene.
4. Would you rather have three part time positions or one full time?
 - a. Doesn't matter, as long as they have help.

Tramway Fire Department representative Scott Holt arrived at 5:30 p.m. The following questions and answers were retrieved from the interview:

1. What can a full time position do for you?
 - a. Help with paper-work, pre-plans, maintenance, fire prevention for schools, faster response time, testing hoses and hydrants.
2. Why do you feel you need this position instead of part-time?
 - a. Full time position seems to fit needs better.
3. What qualifications are you looking for this paid person to have or obtain?
 - a. Someone officer level, self-motivated, driver operator, medical responder.
4. What hours would this person work?
 - a. Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. (rough estimate, not concrete hours, but definitely Monday-Friday)
5. Average busiest day of the week?
 - a. Wednesday
 - b. From 1-1-06 to 5-14-06, 50 calls were daytime hours 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., only 16 calls were nighttime.
 - c. Department also believes that with paid person, it will help the ISO rating.

John Altenburger made a motion to recommend to the Lee County Board of Commissioners the approval of the FY 06-07 budgets as requested by the County Fire Departments. An Amendment was offered by Donald Andrews, to request that one of the first priorities of the new Fire Marshal is to assess the staffing needs of the County Fire Departments, including establishing requirements and/or qualifications for paid personnel, along with salary range for the positions. The amendment was rejected by John Altenburger. Bob Brown then called for the vote. The Board voted to approve the motion as stated without any amendments.

The Board decided to meet again on July 19, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at the Lee County Government Center. The Board members in the interim will begin to develop their list of questions for the evaluation of the flat tax rate for the County fire operations.

Donald Andrews asked if there were any further business, then John Altenburger made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

Donald Andrews, Jr., Chairman

David Smitherman, Secretary